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AUTHOR	McAfee, Ward M.
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ABSTRACT

This book examines the impact of public education on the national culture in the context of educational reform and Reconstruction during the 1870s. Chapter 1, "Prologue to the Seventies," traces the evolution of the American public school through the social. economic, and industrial changes of the early 19th Century, culminating with the Civil War. This chronological perspective continues through the 1870's, with the replication of Horace Mann's public school model throughout the Northern States. Chapter 2, "Church, State, and School," looks at the Cincinnati Bible War, which arose from the competition between Catholic schools and public schools during that decade. The second half of this chapter examines the involvement of African-Americans and other minorities with the issues of religion and education throughout the nation. Chapter 3, "Dividing the School Funds," examines the struggle over school funding in the context of Boss Tweed's Tammany Hall power base, amendments to several state constitutions, the involvement of the Roman Catholic Church, the New York Riot of 1870, and racism. Chapter 4, "Educating the Freedman," looks at African-American freedom as viewed by whites in the 1870s and focuses on Senator Charles Sumner's efforts on behalf of racial equality in Southern public education during Reconstruction. Chapter 5, "Federal Aid to Education," discusses Federal funding during President Grant's term, with debate centering around regional versus national issues. Chapter 6, "Reconstruction's Racial Dissolution," looks at the political climate and early views of racially integrated public education. Chapter 7, "Backlash: 1874," focuses on the response of anti-civil rights groups and their use of political pressure and violence. Chapter 8, "The Anti-Catholic Antidote," chronicles how the religious-culture struggle of the mid 1870s renewed national interest in social problems. Chapter 9, "The End of Reconstruction," looks at the effect of the revised Blain Amendment on Reconstruction efforts, which were losing momentum, and at the contest between centralization and state's rights. (Contains 48 pages of endnotes and an extensive bibliography.) (RIB)